



Our Ref: KN/CAP

7 May 2009

Dear Parent/Carer,

Swine Flu Advice note

In light of the developing situation around Swine Flu outbreaks in Mexico, the US and other countries, we are sending you the following advice based on information available from the Health Protection Agency and NHS Cambridgeshire. For full details please refer to their websites below.

What is Swine Flu?

Swine Flu is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza viruses. Outbreaks of Swine Flu happen regularly in pigs but people do not normally get the virus. However, human infections can and do happen. Typically human cases of Swine Flu happen in people who are around pigs but it is possible for Swine Flu viruses to spread from person to person.

At the moment there is still a low risk of contracting Swine Flu. Early indications are that in most cases outside of Mexico the symptoms of this illness are mild.

Reducing the Risk of influenza

General infection control practices and good hand hygiene can help to reduce the spread of all viruses:

- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue (NOT handkerchief) when possible;
- Dispose of dirty tissues promptly and carefully by binning them;
- Maintain good personal hygiene, eg washing hands frequently with soap and water to reduce the spread of the virus from hands to face or to other people;
- Clean hard surfaces (eg worktops, door handles etc) frequently using a normal cleaning product;
- Make sure your children follow this advice.

The school will be doing all it can to follow these guidelines. Families can support this message and practice at home.

Please do not send pupils to school who are feeling unwell. Efforts will be made to ensure staff and pupils go home if they become unwell during the school day.

If you or your child develop a feverish illness accompanied by one or more of cough, sore throat, headache and muscle aches, **stay at home and contact your GP by phone or seek advice from NHS Direct on 0845 4647.**

Emergency Planning

The school has in place an emergency plan in readiness for a critical incident including flu pandemic. If Swine Flu becomes pandemic a decision will be made as to whether our school will need to close. If the school should have to close, we will advise of this closure through our usual methods ie radio, website and parentmail.



Contact Information

Shortly you will receive from your child the contact information for you which is held by the school. Please make any amendments necessary, date and sign it and then return it to school **the very next day**.

ALL FORMS MUST BE SIGNED AND DATED AND RETURNED TO SCHOOL EVEN IF THERE ARE NO AMENDMENTS.

Distance Learning

The school is required to continue to provide some form of education for pupils during closure. In the event of a closure your child will be able to study via:

- Appropriate work on the school website through subject links;
- SAM Learning which is available to all students;
- Any ongoing tasks already set in the planner.

Particular attention will be given to examination groups and we will contact these students as appropriate.

Should you require any further information do not hesitate to contact the school or the Swine Flu information line 0800 1 513 513.

With best wishes,

Mr K E Nancekievill
Headteacher

Website references:

www.nhs.ukwww.hpa.org.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.direct.gov.uk/swineflu